



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES CATCH INCREASED IN 1953

The 1953 catch of commercial fish and shellfish in the United States and Alaska totaled about 4,400,000,000 pounds, as compared with 4,300,000,000 pounds in 1952, according to a report to Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today by John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The increase was due to a spectacular gain in the catch of menhaden, one of the least known but most important species of commercial fish. A substantial supply of menhaden on the Atlantic Coast and a heavy demand for menhaden meal for poultry and swine feeding were responsible for the increased landings.

The outstanding fishing port in 1953, in volume of landings, was Lewes, Del., where 360,000,000 pounds of menhaden were landed. San Pedro, Calif., which held first place for many years, was second with landings of 328,000,000 pounds principally of tuna, Pacific and Jack mackerel, and sardines.

Other leading ports for which poundage figures are available were: Gloucester, Mass., with 186,000,000 pounds mainly of ocean perch, whiting, haddock, and pollock; Boston, Mass., with 152,000,000 pounds principally of haddock, cod, pollock, whiting, ocean perch, and flounders; Reedville, Va., with 152,000,000 pounds of menhaden; and San Diego, Calif., with 128,000,000 pounds chiefly of tuna.

The outstanding ports with respect to value of the catch were San Pedro, with landings worth \$32,800,000, and San Diego, with a catch valued at \$20,250,000. The catch value at these two ports far outweighed other domestic ports.

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